

STATINTL

The Sceptical Of Part Played By CIA, Staff In Cuba Fiasco

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WASHINGTON — As an old soldier, former President Eisenhower simply isn't buying an effort by New Frontiersmen to lay the blame for the Cuban invasion disaster at the door of the Pentagon and the CIA.

The five-star General of the Army confided to Republican leaders at Gettysburg Monday that he doubted very much if the Joint Chiefs of Staff had any major role in planning the ill-fated action because it was marked by at least one error which had proved so costly in World War I.

A GOP leader revealed that while the former president avoided criticism of the invasion failure he did make the point that poor military planning entered into the fiasco.

He said it was a mistake to have had all the communication equipment loaded aboard one old Liberty ship that was an easy target for shore batteries. The ship was sunk and the material was lost.

"We learned not to do that again after Gallipoli," he remarked, referring to the mis-

successful seizure of the Turkish base of the Dardanelles Straits by the Royal Navy during War I.

Neither did Mr. Eisenhower, it was said, challenge the quality of the intelligence, which went into the preparations for the invasion. He had White House aides, who themselves had urged a goal set by President Kennedy.

On the contrary, Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency now being investigated in an effort to find a scapegoat, had argued against the invasion unless Kennedy was willing to send in American planes to destroy

Cuban air power and establish air control in advance of the landing. This, the President, refused to do.

The CIA was well aware of the millions and tons of Czech arms and tanks and Russian MIG's shipped into Cuba during the past year by the Soviet Union.

It was because of a fear that Cuba might become a military base for Russia that some of the non-professional Ivy League Hoover Boys in the White House urged disregard of the good views of the professionals and Secretary

of State Russ. Dr. Arthur Schlesinger Jr., the Harvard liberal and Undersecretary of State, Secretary of Defense were among those pressuring Kennedy to act fast.

The President has been pushing over the Joint Chiefs of Staff in his defense consultations to take advice from the new civilian secretaries in the Pentagon. Thus Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the JCS and Adm. Arthur W. Burke, chief of naval operations — now bludgeoned by some of the palace guard — made no visible protest against what must have seemed to them a distressingly weak invasion attempt.

Now the White House is leaning that Lemnitzer and Burke should have protested — they have been searched by the new Kennedy censorship — against the attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro, unless or until it was certain of success.

It is said that when the GOP congressional leaders at Gettysburg told Mr. Eisenhower of mistakes in the Cuban operation, he raised an eyebrow and said the Joint Chiefs couldn't have had much of a hand in the Cuban in-